Umatilla Chemical Depot

Chemical Agent Monitoring

More than 300 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and in its exhaust stacks, with about 60,000 air samples taken daily.

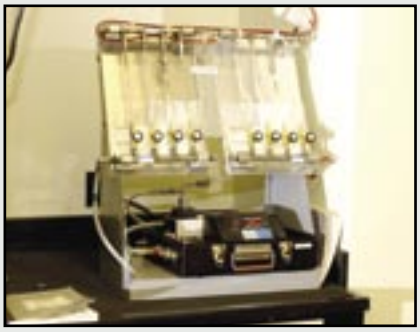
To check for chemical agents, "near-real-time" monitors constantly sniff the air and give a reading within minutes. Other monitors collect samples over a longer period of time to help confirm readings of the near-real-time monitors.

Automatic Continuous Air Monitoring System (ACAMS)

The Automatic Continuous Air Monitoring System is the primary monitor in the Army's chemical weapons disposal program. Installed inside and around the footprint of the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, about 100 of these "near-real-time" monitors sample the air every 3 minutes, 24 hours a day, with each air sample analyzed and the results visually displayed. Using a process called gas chromatography, these monitors can detect extremely low levels of chemical agent. Any detection exceeding allowable levels triggers local and remote, audible and visual alarms.

Depot Area Air Monitoring System (DAAMS)

About 200 Depot Area Air Monitoring System (DAAMS) units continually sample the air for chemical agent by drawing the air through special glass tubes and trapping any chemical agent in a special material. Sampling times vary from every few minutes to 12 hours. The tubes are collected and a laboratory analysis can provide confirmation of agent reading from the near-real-time monitors or provide a historical record of monitoring for areas not monitored by near-real-time monitors.



Real Time Analytical Platform (RTAP)

The Real Time Analytical Platforms are fully functional mobile monitoring vehicles with equipment that will sample and analyze ambient air to detect the presence of nerve or mustard agents. The depot uses nine RTAPs, primarily in its chemical storage areas. They are capable of 24-hour operations and can accurately analyze for nerve or mustard agent, rapidly verifying and confirming the results on-site in approximately one-half hour.

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